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FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department

United States of America

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In the matter of the failure of the Japanese to furnish proper food, quarters, and medical care to American prisoners of war at Kangwan, China, between March 1943 and June 1945

Perpetuation of testimony of Sgt. Roger Dick Bamford, 1622 Avenue B, Kearney, Nebraska, Serial No. 306927

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Taken at: Kearney, Nebraska

Date: 15 February 1946

In the presence of: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC, 7 SC, Omaha, Nebr.

Reporter: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC, 7 SC, Omaha, Nebr.

Questions by: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC, 7 SC, Omaha, Nebr.

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Q State your name, rank, Marine Corps Serial Number and permanent home address.

A I am Roger Dick Bamford, Sgt. Serial No. 306927. My home address is 1622 Avenue B, Kearney, Nebraska.

Q State your citizenship and the date and place of your birth.

A I am a citizen of the United States and was born at Elm Creek, Nebraska, on November 6, 1922.

Q What education have you had?

A I was graduated from highschool at Kearney, Nebraska.

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Q Did you have a civilian occupation?

A No. I went from highschool to the Marine Corps.

Q Where were you stationed and what were your military duties?

A I was attached to an anti-aircraft Unit stationed on Wake Island when the war between Japan and the United States broke out on 7 December 1941.

Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes. I was captured at Wake Island on 23 December 1941. I was transferred soon to Moosung Prison Camp at Moosung, China where I was held until March 1943. I was then transferred to a prison camp at Kangwan, China where I was held from March 1943 until June 1945. We were then transferred to a prison camp at Fengtia, China, where we were held from 1 June to 1 July 1945. The last prison camp I was in was located at Hokodate, Hokaido, Japan where I was held from 1 July 1945 to about 15 August 1945 when I was released by American Forces. I was returned to the United States soon after being released.

Q Do you recall what food was issued to American prisoners of war at Kangwan China Prison Camp between March 1943 and 1945 (June)?

A Yes, I do.

Q State what you recalled concerning the food issued.

A Our diet consisted of three meals a day made up of a small teacupful of rice and a small amount of watery soup ordinarily twice a day. Approximately twenty to twenty-five loaves of bread were furnished daily also. We received no other food from the outside but we did get one Red Cross package a year while we were there.

Q What kind of quarters did you have there?

A We slept in barns on the earth floor. We had no stoves and no fuel for fire. Our latrine facilities were inadequate as was the water supply. The Japanese did issue some clothing. Some men did receive a shirt and others a pair of pants but none got both at once as I recall. Some Japanese shoes were issued. They were poorly made and without arches. Many of the men got flat feet as a result of wearing them.

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- Q Did the Japanese furnish medical care?
- A The Japanese made no attempt to provide medical care for the prisoners. The only care we got came from the medical officer, a Commander Thison, who was also a prisoner. Our medical supplies came from the Red Cross packages which we received.
- Q Did any prisoners die while you were at this camp?
- A Yes, four or five men died as a result of malnutrition, beri-beri or dysentery. I do not recall their names.
- Q Who was the Japanese Commander?
- A He was Captain Indo who had been our Commander at Woosung Prison Camp.
- Q Who was the ranking American officer?
- A Colonel Ashurst, USMC.
- Q Do you recall the names of any American prisoners who were there with you?
- A Sgt. Marion L. Wyne, 4475 Saratoga Aven, San Diego, California and Sgt. Fred Beese, Iodale, Iowa.
- Q Do you have anything further to add to the above?
- A No.
- Q Do you have any knowledge of other mistreatment of American prisoners of war by the Japanese?
- A Only what I have given you in sworn statement today.

s/ ROGER DICK BALFORD

t/ ROGER DICK BALFORD, Sgt. USMC

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STATE OF NEBRASKA)
COUNTY OF BUFFALO) SS

I, Roger Dick Bamford, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(S E A L)

s/ ROGER DICK BALFORD
t/ ROGER DICK BALFORD, Sgt. USMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of March 1946.

s/ IRENE LAWSON
Co. Clerk, Buffalo Co.

CERTIFICATE

I, Charles H. Phares, Special Agent, SIC, 7 SC, certify that Roger Dick Bamford personally appeared before me on 15 February 1946 and testified concerning War Crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

s/ CHAS. H. PHARES, S/Agt.
SIC, 7 SC
t/ CHAS. H. PHARES S/Agt.
SIC, 7 SC

Omaha, Nebraska
Mar 5, 1946

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CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

/s/ Lindsay Williamson
LINDSAY WILLIAMSON
CAPT. JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

Mar 1, 1946

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached document is a true
copy of an affidavit purporting to be sworn and subscribed
to by ROGER DICK BALFORD, Sgt., S.N. 306927
at Buffalo County, Nebraska
on the 5th day of March 1946.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that it was copied from an original in my
custody as Chief, Criminal Registry Division, Legal Section, GHQ,
SCAP, Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ CHARLES A. REINHARD
CHARLES A. REINHARD
Lt Col., F. A.
Chief of Criminal Registry
Division, Legal Section

2004-1

文書第八四四号

問 君、姓名、階級、海兵隊認識票番号及
原籍地ヲ述ベテサイ。

答 我ハロージャー、ディック・バムプー、軍曹、
認識票番号、三〇六^七アリス。原籍地ハ
ネブラスカ州、カトネイ市、B街、一八ニ番地デ
アリス。

× × × × × × × × ×

問 君ハ俘虜ニナッタ。

答 バイ、我ハ、一九四一年(昭和十八年)二月
ニ三日、ウエーク島デ捕ヘテミタ。間モテ
中國、吳淞、吳淞俘虜收容所ヘ移サレ
ソツニ一九四三年(昭和十八年)三月迄、收容
サレテ居ミタ。ソレカラ、中國 Kengwan、
俘虜收容所ニ移サレ、ソツニ一九四三年
(昭和十八年)三月カラ、一九四五年(昭和二十年)

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大東道 收留所 千石 千石

× × × × × × × ×

問 各營、中國俘虜收容所、一九四三年
(昭和十八年)三月より、一九四五年(昭和二十年)
まで、同、外國兵俘虏所にて、食糧が給與
された。戦中、

答、戦中、食料は、紅茶系、一箱、^{約百三十三度}普通
一百三十三度、小麦、水、ス、ア、ア、ア、ア、ア、
毎食、二、三、三、三、三、三、三、三、三、三、三、三、
戦中、カ、ワ、ニ、居、同、外、部、コ、ラ、他、ニ、何、モ、食、料、
食、ッ、ナ、カ、ッ、ガ、毎、二、度、床、十、字、型、に、一、度、
チ、ニ、入、レ、セ、タ、。

問、ワ、ッ、デ、ハ、何、ニ、テ、住、居、宿、舎、ニ、居、タ、。

答、戦中、人、知、屋、デ、ニ、同、エ、ニ、寝、ニ、タ、。火、ヲ、焚、ク、ニ、モ、
ス、ト、一、ガ、モ、新、ミ、デ、リ、セ、タ、。便、所、設、備、ハ、給、水、
ト、同、様、不、十、分、デ、ア、リ、タ、。日、本、軍、ハ、衣、類、ヲ、若、干、
給、與、シ、テ、采、ト、シ、タ、。ニ、ッ、ク、一、枚、買、ッ、テ、着、セ、タ、。
或、ニ、着、ハ、ズ、ホ、シ、ク、一、枚、買、ッ、テ、着、セ、タ、。其、他、

800 4-2

・ 天草遠 牧場より手届いた。

× × × × × × × ×

問 各島に、中國傳書牧場所有一九四三年
(昭和十八年)二月より一九四五年(昭和二十年)
天草遠、同、東國定修 等より、食糧が給與
せられたと聞かせる。

答 戦々、食子、ハーフ、紅赤赤碗一椀、飯ト普通
一ヨ二三度、少量、水ボイ、スーパードリマシタ。
毎日、風呂ニ入リ三十五度、バスタブにカシマシタ。
戦々カワニ居ル所、外部カウ他ニ何も食物ヲ
受ナカッタが、毎ニ一度、床十字廻リ、一箇
チニ入リマシタ。

問 ツツテ、何ニテ、種類、宿舍ニ居タ、カ。

答 戦々人、紙屋デニ同、エニ變ミシタ。火ヲ焚クニモ
ストトカモ、薪モ下リモセシマシタ。便所、設備ハ給水
ト同様、不十分デアリマシタ。日本軍ハ衣類ヲ若干
給與シテ呉レマシタ。ニヤツキ一牧草ヲ食ヒマシタ。
戦々人ハズガニラ一牧草ヲ食ヒマシタが、似、聞

★

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ニラ平に限リテ人商一一度も買ツク者人々有リ
 ニニデミタ。日本ノ靴ヲ幾ニテ給與テミタガ
 食糧ヲ出テ予ニテ踏ガ無リ。又、人々コソ履ミタ
 結糸。偏平足ミタミタ。

問。日本軍、醫療ヲ施シタ。

答。日本軍ノ停處ニ醫療ヲ施サリトミタコトトバ下リさせ、
 我々ノ受タタ唯一、予等ノ彼自身モ亦停處デアル
 軍醫、スイソニ中庭ニ依ルミデミタ。我々ニ必要ト藥品
 へ自合軍ガ買ハタ赤十字團同品、中カラ出シミタ。

問。君ガ此ノ收容所ニ居ニ間、死ミタ停處ガアルカ。

答。バ、四人ヲ、五人、栄養不良、脚氣、赤痢等デ
 死ミタミタ。死者ノ如前ハ記憶シテ居リミタ。

以ニ